

8. (once amended) For use in a cable television converter terminal, a passthrough circuit for passing a tuned signal from a tuner to a radio frequency modulator for output to external equipment, the passthrough circuit arrangement comprising:

a first signal path, arranged to receive the tuned signal from the tuner and to provide a NICAM signal component of the tuned signal to the radio frequency modulator; and

a second signal path, arranged to receive the tuned signal from the tuner and to provide at least one other signal component of the tuned signal to the radio frequency modulator;

wherein the second signal path comprises:

a channel surface acoustic wave filter, arranged to receive the tuned signal from the tuner and to filter the tuned signal to generate a filtered signal;

an intermediate frequency strip, configured and arranged to amplify the filtered signal;

a dual surface acoustic wave filter, configured and arranged to separate the amplified filtered signal into audio and video signal components;

an audio and video amplifier, operatively coupled to the dual surface acoustic wave filter and configured and arranged to amplify the audio and video signal components; and

an audio/video demodulator, configured and arranged to downconvert the amplified audio and video signal components to their respective baseband frequencies and to provide the downconverted audio and video signal components to the radio frequency modulator.

Please add the following new claims:

18. (new) A method of processing a television signal comprising filtering an output of a tuner with a surface acoustic wave filter to separate a NICAM audio signal from said output of said tuner.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
processing said NICAM audio signal; and
inputting said NICAM audio signal to a modulator.
20. (new) The method of claim 19, further comprising modulating said NICAM audio signal
and a video signal of said television signal to produce a radio frequency signal.
21. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising outputting said radio frequency signal
to a television set.
22. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein processing said NICAM audio signal comprises:
mixing said NICAM audio signal with an oscillating signal; and
filtering said NICAM audio signal.
23. (new) A system for processing a television signal comprising:
means for tuning a selected channel signal from an incoming television signal; and
means for filtering said channel signal with a surface acoustic wave filter to separate a
NICAM audio signal from said channel signal.
24. (new) The system of claim 23, further comprising:
means for processing said NICAM audio signal; and
means for modulating said NICAM audio signal with a video signal of said channel
signal to produce a radio frequency signal.
25. (new) The system of claim 24, further comprising means for outputting said radio
frequency signal to a television set.